

Open Door **2022**

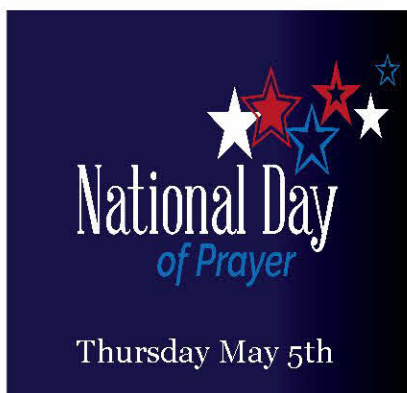
Genesis 2 tells us that "the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil... The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it."

This passage reminds us that we are partners with God in caring for the creation that has been given to us as a gift. In many ways, great and small, we can make a difference in the creation around us.

One thing that we have done on the First Presbyterian Church property is to replace the aging Bradford Pear trees. Bradford Pears have become an invasive species that are beautiful, but do much damage to our local ecosystem. Our trees have been replaced with a number of indigenous species: redbud, pin oak, and red maple. We pray that these trees may grow and provide shade and shelter and food in an ecologically sound manner.

What small things might each of us do to care for the earth? Perhaps we could change our thermostats a few degrees, or use less plastic. Can we recycle more or compost more? What can you do to join as a partner with God in caring for his creation.

Pastor Ray

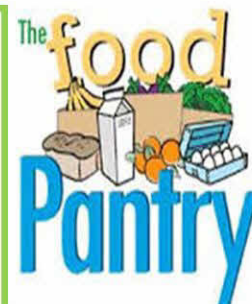


Thursday, May 5th, is National Day of Prayer this year. Let us be fervent with our prayers to the Lord on this day and every day.



We had the busiest month for the food pantry so far this year, in the month of April. We handed out 30 bags of food. We appreciate all that you do to support this ministry.

Please keep those donations coming!



Palm Sunday brought a triumphant entry into the Sanctuary with an uplifting song from the choir.



- May 1** Easter Transformation
- May 8** The Sacred Work of Love
- May 15** The Invisible Fence
- May 22** Living in Scary Times
- May 29** Who Writes the Rest of the Story?



Kum Ba Yah aka Kum Ba Zoom

We meet every Wednesday on ZOOM for fellowship, study and prayer. 7:00 PM. The link to the Zoom Meeting is sent in the Wednesday eMail each week.

Kum Ba Yah topics:

- May 4** Mark 16
- May 11** The Long Road to Resurrection
- May 18** From Mindful to Contemplative
- May 25** Resurrection, Not Resuscitation

Adult Sunday School

Sundays at 9:30am on Zoom and in Person!

- May 1** Stations of the Cross 15
- May 8** Mothers in the Bible
- May 15** "Don't Say Gay"
- May 22** The Infancy Gospel of Thomas
- May 29** The Chosen

BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are grateful for the leadership of Dave Foster and Janice Johnson who organize our weekly food program with children at Roosevelt Elementary School. We are currently serving 47 students by providing weekend “backpacks” of simple, nutritious food. Your support is essential and appreciated.

The foods we give are single serving, easy open containers, no cooking required, and without nut products. The food can be divided into two breakfasts, two lunches, and two dinners.



The Mission Committee met on March 15, 2022. Those present discussed some different places and organizations that may benefit from our donations. This month the committee decided to donate \$300.00 to EOP for Malawi health/medical supplies, \$200.00 to Serving Christ Ministries, \$300.00 to the Boys & Girls Club, and \$300.00 to the Community Crisis Center.

For the entire year, the Mission Committee has made gifts of \$500.00 to Global Missions and \$600.00 to Local Missions. In addition to a founding bequest from the Meyers Sisters, other church members supplement these gifts each year. Consider a gift to the Mission giving of your local congregation!

FPC Miami Church ministries of the Backpack program and the food pantry have been a blessing to our community. 40 food pantry bags and 360 backpacks have been handed out so far this year.



4 STATES 4 EQUALITY

YOU BELONG HERE!

Join our up-and-coming group for minority youth and their allies with an emphasis on mental health and community betterment!

MONDAYS 6PM-7PM

Held in the 1st Presbyterian Church in Miami



4-State Youth 4 Equality

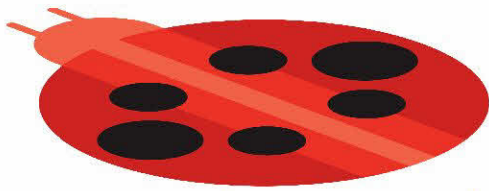
A new group has formed to provide a safe place for area teens to explore their uniqueness as created and loved by God. First Presbyterian is happy to offer space for this new group. The first vision for this group came from the story of a young gay man who has experienced bullying in an area school and rejection by his local church. We look forward to learning and growing together.

Easter isn't just for the little ones! The 4 state Youth 4 Equality Group was in the Easter mood during the month of April as well. During the 2 meetings they held this past month they had arts and crafts and then an Easter Egg hunt.

On April 4th the youth colored and decorated wooden Easter eggs all sorts of bright vibrant spring/Easter colors. Some even added sparkling jewels to their eggs. They look so pretty! Great job 4 States Youth 4 Equality Group!

On April 18th the group had an Easter egg hunt. Boy, did they find a lot of eggs and candy that night.





MAY 2022

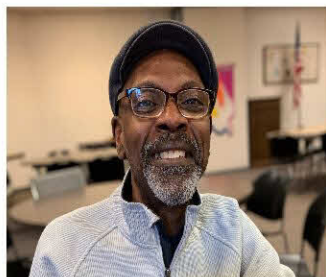
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship	2 10-12 Food Pantry 6:00 4States 4 Equality	3 10-12 Food Pantry	4 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	5 National Day of Prayer 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	6 10-12 Food Pantry	7
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Deacons Mtg	9 10-12 Food Pantry	10 10-12 Food Pantry	11 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	12 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	13 10-12 Food Pantry	14
15 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship	16 10-12 Food Pantry 6:00 4States 4 Equality	17 10-12 Food Pantry 11:00 Mission Com- mittee Mtg. 7:00 Session Mtg.	18 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	19 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	20 10-12 Food Pantry	21
22 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship	23 10-12 Food Pantry	24 10-12 Food Pantry	25 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	26 Ascension Day 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	27 10-12 Food Pantry	28
29 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship	30 Memorial Day Closed	31 10-12 Food Pantry				



Berkeley Ulrey.....5/7 Abbey Ankenman5/18
 Matt Whalen.....5/10 Isaac Rendel.....5/22
 Gayle Waylan.....5/12 John P. Wilson.....5/29
 Philip Carden.....5/15 Arlene Seybolt.....5/30
 Carol Carden.....5/17

Should your name be here?
 Please let the office know your birth date so we can include you!

Getting To Know Our FPC Miami Family Members



Bill Hancock is very active in our church although he lives and works in Joplin. His heritage is very interesting. His Great Grandfather on his mother's side was a Full Blood Cherokee who came on the Trail of Tears and settled in Carthage, where Bill grew up. He had an older brother and a younger sister. When he was eight years old, the family bought a home in a neighborhood that was almost all white. The people who lived there circulated petitions to keep them out. That didn't work so after they moved in the whites threw rocks at the house and even broke a window. But Bill had an interesting grandmother who brought her gun to sit on the porch....so that ended that. His High School was only 5% black. His family lived near a park where black kids hung out. But his "in charge grandmother" would not allow him and his brother to go there.

In High School, C's were not allowed.....only A's and B's. He graduated high in his class and attended college a while. Then he worked in Joplin a few years.

He was always very close to his mother. She died of a heart attack in 2002. Losing his mother was traumatic. After all of these years; talking about her still brings tears to his eyes. When his mother was dealing with heart issues, Bill began Nursing School. He became a Registered Nurse in 2004. Because of his having dealt with his mother's issues, he wanted to work in any unit except cardiac. And the Cardiac unit was the very area where he was placed. Now he works in Cardiac, Orthopedic, Emergency, or ICU.

On May 13, 2008, Bill was on duty in St John's Hospital in Joplin. It was stormy all day. In the early afternoon the signal was given to prepare for Condition Grey. That meant to move all patients to the corridor. The sirens were going off. Bill was working with the last patient in a room with large windows on the west side of the building. The patient had many tubes. Bill almost had him disconnected and moving to the hall when the tornado hit and the windows shattered and imploded. Glass went everywhere! Slivers were all in Bill's hair. It was so bad that he had to shave his head! The tornado moved the building slightly off its foundation but the building did not collapse. All of the patients had to be moved down the stairs, and outside. Everything went very well for a short time – the hospital was in the eye of the storm. Doctors and volunteers from nearby towns came and a Triage was set up. Bill went to work in the Triage. He didn't take a break for many hours. He hopes he never has to work in a situation as scary as that day.

Bill is highly respected in his work at the hospital. His philosophy is, "You can be anything you want to be. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something!!"

Article By: Nancy Gee

Servers in the Lord's House			
	Coffee Host	4 States Youth 4 Equality	
May 1	Open	May 2	Open
May 8	Open	May 16	Open
May 15	Open	May 30	Open
May 22	Open		
May 29	Open		

Please call the office or talk to Pastor Ray to sign up for servers slots!

Backpack Helper Schedule		
Thursday May 5	Melinda	John
Thursday May 12	Open	Open
Thursday May 19	Nancy	Betty Lou
	Open	Open



- Mother's Day
5/8
- Presbyterian Heritage Day
5/22
- Ascension of the Lord
5/26
- Memorial Day
5/30





COVID 19 UPDATE:

For several weeks there have been 0 reported cases of COVID in Ottawa County. We will not be requiring masks in worship, but we will continue to social distance for the time being. We will continue to monitor the situation, and requirements may change.

I AM.....

During Lent we remembered several of the "I Am" sayings from John. Each week we added visual reminder to help us learn and grow.

- I AM the Bread of Life (loaf of bread)
- ... the Light of the World (a lighthouse)
- ... the Good Shepherd (a lamb)
- ... the Resurrection and the Life (a butterfly)
- ... the way (a map)
- ... the True Vine (a grapevine)





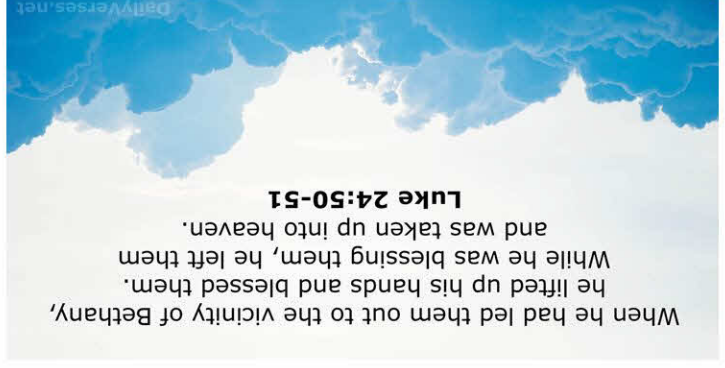
WAY TO GO ROOSEVELT!

Students at Roosevelt Elementary School collected coins recently to help with relief efforts in Ukraine. Students collected \$572.52 which will be matched 1:5 by the Convoy of Hope, a non-profit humanitarian organization whose driving passion is to feed the world and deliver hope where it's needed most. That means their \$572.52 becomes \$2,860.20! Small deeds make a huge difference.

Easter Sunday

We had a fun Easter egg hunt, a blessed service, and wonderful Music.
It was a Beautiful Easter Celebration!





*The First Presbyterian Church
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